

Service Date: December 21, 2000

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF Qwest Corporation's	)	UTILITY DIVISION
Cooke City Exchange, Customer Petition for	)	
Telephone EAS with Qwest Corporation's	)	DOCKET NO. D2000.8.125
Bozeman EAS Region	)	ORDER NO. 6312

FINAL ORDER

On August 21, 2000, customers within Qwest Corporation's (Qwest) Cooke City, Montana, exchange filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) a petition for approval of the Cooke City exchange being included in Qwest's existing Bozeman telephone extended area service (EAS) region. On October 12, 2000, Qwest filed a letter with the PSC, stating therein that it has no objection to the petition, if the Cooke City exchange customers are assessed the Qwest EAS region statewide EAS increment (presently an additional monthly charge of \$2.44).

On November 3, 2000, the PSC publicly noticed the customer petition for EAS and Qwest's agreement to the petition, comments or requests for hearing to be due on or before November 28, 2000. No comments in opposition to the customer petition to be included in the Bozeman EAS region were received. No requests for hearing were received.

The PSC hereby approves the inclusion of the Cooke City exchange with the existing Bozeman EAS region with the following conditions. Qwest will implement EAS in the Cooke City exchange no later than 180 days following the service date of this order (see above for service date). When this approved additional EAS is implemented the customers within the Cooke City exchange will be subject to the same EAS terms and conditions as all other customers within the Bozeman region, including payment of the monthly EAS increment.

The Commission requires Qwest to inform the customers in the Cooke City exchange of this PSC decision to approve EAS. The information provided to the customers will be provided by Qwest via first class mail no later than 30 days following the service date of this order. The information will inform customers of the PSC's decision to implement EAS in the Cooke City

exchange and will describe EAS, its characteristics, and the local calling areas available to the customers. In addition, no later than 30 days prior to Qwest's implementation of EAS in the Cooke City exchange, Qwest will send another notification to the Cooke City exchange customers explaining EAS in more detail, including available service options. The notice will inform customers that they can choose flat rated service with the EAS charge or, as an alternative, one of the two measured service options (without the EAS charge) available and included in Qwest's Montana tariffs. The notice will also inform customers that their local calling area will be extended regardless of whether they choose for the flat rate or measured service plan. The notice will also inform customers that Qwest will allow each customer to switch from their current service, either flat rated or measured service, to an alternative calling plan for a period of 90 days from the date of EAS implementation and such conversion will be free of any applicable switching charges. Qwest will also inform customers that they may switch back to their initial EAS service option within an additional 180 day period (for a total of 270 days) free from applicable switching charges. In the notice Qwest will explain in detail these options for both business and residential customers.

Done and dated this 4th day of December, 2000, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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DAVE FISHER, Chair

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NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

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BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

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GARY FELAND, Commissioner

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BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.